

# The Ottawa Citizen

An independent newspaper, founded in 1844

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Publisher

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Editor Associate Editor

Published by the proprietor, Southam Press Limited  
at 136 Sparks Street, Ottawa 4, Ontario

Tuesday, January 26, 1971

## FRENCH HIRING

### Right policy, wrong tactics

It is the federal government's tactics, not the plan to create jobs for a contingent of 250 French-speaking graduates, that are suspect in the public service controversy that has erupted on Parliament Hill.

The government has invited the wrath of parliamentarians and the public service unions by seeking to hire these graduates under cover of darkness. "This information is confidential," says the memo which stirred up the fire, "and no official announcement will be made."

Under these circumstances, the public service's watch-dogs are invited to smell a rat. The merit system is under attack! they charge—and yet the program fits four-square with the administrative trainee program, under which university graduates across the country have for years been brought into the public service and trained on a holding basis. We see no danger to the merit system.

The government is clearly seeking to bring more highly educated French-Canadians into the public service, in line with a recruitment policy established in the mid-'60s. And, as a drop will swell a puddle, the hiring program will also absorb a tiny portion of the growing ranks of educated Quebecers, whose future prospects on the depressed economic scene of their home province are causing so much concern.

If these goals are valid, it is fatuous to fault a program launched in pursuit of these goals on grounds of discrimination.

But let the government do its good work in the open, and in consultation with the public service unions, and its methods would not be vulnerable to suspicion and attack, as they are today.

### CDC: This time?

The bill to set up the Canada Development Corporation is a major weapon in the fight to ensure Canadian ownership of the economy. The partnership of government and investing public will raise capital for the development of Canadian resources, and the prevention of takeovers.

This is not the first time such a bill has been placed before Parliament. Previously, it ran into heavy resistance. It was argued that capital would be diverted from other investment outlets; secondly, the government and public might get stuck with unsound investments, in an attempt to prevent takeovers. But so strongly has public opinion swelled in the past few years in favor of Canadian ownership, that the bill should now find easier going.

A good precedent already exists: Panarctic Oils is a partnership of government and private investors, developing Arctic resources. It may be brought into the CDC. As for takeovers, several instances have been reported lately of small companies which, unable to find capital for expansion in Canada, have had to sell out to U.S. firms. This would no longer be necessary.

The CDC will operate as an ordinary business corporation; its management will be answerable to its shareholders. As in any other business, that should keep the board of directors looking for profitable, efficient ventures.



Rusins pays a tribute

It's Minor Hockey Week in Canada, and Citizen cartoonist Rusins Kaufman, who has a son playing with the Aylmer Mosquitoes, couldn't resist putting in a plug for the young athletes and their volunteer helpers. That's coach Waine Mancell and manager Lorne Mallot in his drawing. "I'm partial," he admits, "but I admire all the organizers who make minor hockey possible."



### It's fun

#### NCC shows city the way

By Orland French  
Citizen staff writer

Chalk one up for Ottawa over Hogtown. They can have their skating rink on Nathan Phillips Square; we've got the longest rink in Canada.

Or rather, chalk up one score for the National Capital Commission. City council could have taken the credit if it had found some "fun money" to open the four-mile-long rink on the Rideau Canal. Not worth it, said someone at City Hall, and so the ice was left undisturbed under the snow until someone in the NCC simply decided to go ahead and give the public what it wanted.

#### No room for pleasure?

Did the public want it? There was hardly skating room anywhere Sunday between the ends of the rink at the National Arts Centre and Dow's Lake. There were dusty skates there that hadn't left the attic in decades. There were little tykes on bobskates, and pensioners on ancient skids, and young boys who carried hockey sticks for manliness and a prop when they tired, and dogs on leashes who padded along while their masters skated, and parents who tired far faster than their children, and hordes of people who found free skating on the canal was more fun than paying for tow tickets at crowded ski hills.

Five thousand would probably be a

conservative estimate of the crowd on Sunday. Now if the canal was private property and people were willing to pay 50 cents or just a quarter for the pleasure of skating outdoors, you can bet some private schemer would have the ice cleared and the turnstiles installed in early winter. But, ho hum, there's no room for winter fun in the city's budget.

#### Roses for the NCC

It cost the NCC about \$10,000 to open the rink, draw up a couple of trailers for change houses and find a few johnnies-on-the-spot for handy restrooms, and they had the facilities to handle a crowd of thousands.

Sure, the ice was rough, potholed and cracked, and some people were beginning to wonder if they weren't actually skating on an Ottawa street. But that could be improved by flooding the canal with a water truck.

Ottawa council could have taken on the project, and that would have represented a breakthrough. They'd debate so long at City Hall that the rink wouldn't open until April, and the first person on would break through the ice.

Roses to the NCC, then, for thinking big. Thorns and brickbats to city council, for not realizing that every budget has to have room for a little fun.

## Citizen Forum

### An old age pensioner speaks up for the 'abandoned people'

By James G. Turner

May heaven help us—our government obviously will not.

There are 1,700,000 of us in Canada and we constitute 7.7 per cent of the total population. Of more importance, however, we constitute 17 per cent of the voting population. We are the old age pensioners, the senior citizens of this great country.

Of our numbers, 800,000 receive the supplementary old age benefit of \$31.83 per month, while 900,000 receive only the basic pension of \$79.58 per month.

The white paper presented to Parliament by Welfare Minister Munro in December, since ratified by the government just prior to the Christmas vacation, increased the supplementary benefit to \$50 per month and the basic pension to \$80 per month—an increase of 42 cents per month, or 10 cents per week. I wonder if the individual members of our government and, for that matter our senators, realize that 10 cents will not buy a cup of coffee today, nor will it pay for even the shortest of bus rides. If it were not tragic it would be comical.

Old age pensions are the right of

every senior citizen. Our old age pensions constitute our just reward for services rendered. Let us never forget that fact.

Surely the senior citizens are entitled to live in dignity and reasonable comfort. Remember, they are the people who assisted in the economic rise of this country in the past half century. They constituted the communities on whose shoulders this country has risen and prospered. They have paid their just debts in every way.

#### Nothing more than a dole

Do they not deserve something better than what, obviously most begrudgingly, has been doled out to them by their fellow citizens? Because in truth, under the present system it is nothing more than a dole and what is more, a dole on which they literally cannot live in dignity.

"Democracy" is probably the most wonderful word in our language. Politicians use it as often as possible in their speeches and discourses. It fires up the imagination. It conjures up visions of a beautiful existence where happiness and contentment are there

to be enjoyed by everyone. What is more, as we continue to listen and absorb this beautiful thought we begin to believe this is a wonderful land in which we live, this Canada of ours.

Democracy, say the politicians, is a "just society." It is "government for the people, for the people and by the people." It is "equal opportunity for all and fair play for everyone." These indeed are wonderful words and we are caught up in the enthusiasm they create. We believe them, at least for the moment.

But how casually and sometimes, we believe, how deliberately are these fine-sounding phrases forgotten and, in fact, actually abandoned as soon as our politicians step away from their microphones or speakers' platforms. It really is remarkable how short is the memory when the fulfilment of promises is concerned.

The recent Liberal party convention adopted a resolution recommending that the old age pensions for single pensioners be increased to \$175 per month and \$275 per month for married pensioners. This was a resolution adopted by delegates who represented the supporters of our

government, who had indeed elected the members of our government to their posts. The delegates represented over half of the voting population of this country and, we presume, also represented the thinking and wishes of over 50 per cent of the voting public. We believe those are significant and potent figures.

What is more, the Economic Council has stated that an income of \$3,240 per annum, or \$270 per month, is the poverty line for two people.

Yet the leader of our government, the man we elected to look after our interests and well-being, said, quite casually, that the resolution of his representatives was all very fine, but the government could not afford such a program. He further said, "If we do implement this resolution, tell me what taxes you wish us to increase."

We listened to those words and then we recalled the colossal waste of the taxpayers' funds in connection with the "Arrow" project, the "Bon-aventure" scandal and the "Canso" fiasco, to say nothing of the "B & B" commission, the Carter commission,

## Uganda revolt laid to tribal rivalries

By Patrick Best  
Citizen staff writer

The apparent overthrow of President Milton Obote by an army faction in Uganda probably came as no great surprise to the 300 Canadians who find themselves in this troubled East African nation.

Reports that armored vehicles, tanks and trucks were massed in the Junja area, about 70 miles from the capital of Kampala, vividly recalled for me a visit I made there in mid-1970.

A young doctor serving with the Canadian University Service Overseas at a Jinja hospital told me:

"With tribal rivalries as they are, your life is not worth anything here."

His wife, also a graduate of a Canadian medical school, agreed with him. So did a majority of the 20 or so other CUSO volunteers then serving in the "Cradle of the Nile."

#### State of emergency

All the ingredients necessary for internal upheaval were imbedded in the Uganda fabric. Tribal frictions permeated the political, military and religious spheres of life.

Tensions in this country of 8,000,000 have mounted steadily since the death late in 1969 of Uganda's first president, Sir Edward Mutesa, and the subsequent assassination attempt on Dr. Obote.

Indeed, a state of emergency has existed almost continuously in the former kingdom of Buganda, surrounding Kampala, since May, 1966, when troops loyal to then Prime Minister Obote seized the palace of Sir Edward, who was reigning as Kabaka (King). The Kabaka fled to London and Dr. Obote took over the presidency.

#### Opposition silenced

Sir Edward's death in 1969 and the later banning of all political parties opposing President Obote's ruling Uganda People's Congress stirred anew the emotions of the Buganda people.

Several Buganda residents received life sentences for their part in the assassination attempt. But this tribe—the biggest in the nation—does not easily forget the past. Uganda, a former British protectorate, became independent in 1962.

President Obote constantly sought to paint Uganda as a country of stability, because of the need to attract tourist business. In 1967, the heads of state of East and Central Africa held a "summit" meeting there. In July, 1969, Pope Paul visited Uganda, the first reigning pontiff ever to set foot on African soil.

Opponents of the Obote regime restrained themselves on such occasions. But those close to the scene knew that peace and tranquillity existed only on the surface.

More recently, President Obote had been moving his country gradually to the left, a trend symbolized by his party's "Common Man's



Milton Obote  
Deposed in absentia

claimed success in a broadcast over Radio Uganda, a station that has been well guarded by troops loyal to President Obote over the past several years. Army insurgents regard a radio station as a prize possession in such situations.

What has happened in Uganda could have serious repercussions across the continent, particularly in East and Central Africa.

Uganda is a member of the East African Community with its neighbors Tanzania and Kenya—an economic partnership that has done much to help the member countries develop. What will happen to it now?

A new regime in Uganda could also have an influence on the stand taken by Tanzania and Zambia on the South African arms issue. The latter two countries have counted on Uganda for support in their efforts to force the British government to drop its plans to resume arms sales to the white supremacist nation to the south.

## READERS' VIEWS

### Red influence in Africa seen as overstated

Editor, Citizen: Bruce Stirling's letter (Citizen, Jan. 16) is insulting and shows how ignorant the author is about developments in Africa.

Mr. Stirling should have found out the reasons for the presence of the Chinese in Tanzania. The Chinese are involved in a major project — Tanzam railway — which is financed and built by the Chinese. If Mr. Stirling is not a "24-hour expert" — to use his words — in African affairs he will not fail to find the reasons why the Chinese, and not the Americans, are in Tanzania and Zambia.

It has become fashionable, particularly for those who have refused to think, to relate anything that has to do with liberation to communism. They bring inept arguments against communism to justify the continuation of inhuman treatment of the indigenous people in the colonized territories of Africa.

While the pro-unionists claim that what they are aiming at is no less than "a new manifestation of the one church of Christ," we who on grounds of conscience oppose the projected merger dispute that it would, in fact, be entitled to such a high-sounding title.

We do not deny the sincerity of the proponents of union, or their dedication to their task. Rather, we feel that we have ample and sufficient grounds for pessimism as we have watched the commissions go about their work and, not without regrets, find ourselves unable in conscience to accept what they have produced. Rev. Dr. C. J. CATANZARO Ottawa.

#### What he said

Editor, Citizen: Dr. R. B. Craig, commissioner for church union, has brought to my attention that I was reported to have said, "no more than 12 United Churches celebrate communion." He pointed out that all congregations in his church celebrate communion at least quarterly, and that members of the United Church were expected to attend.

What I said was that weekly communions were exceedingly rare in United Church congregations, whereas they have become the norm among Anglicans and certainly are taken for granted among the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ).

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#### the "Women's Rights" commission and even the "Poverty" commission.

Apparently the government could afford the high salaries and the not inconsiderable expense of those projects, which seemingly have produced little or no effective results, at least to date or even possibly in the immediate future.

#### Others get a better deal

A short time ago an overall pay increase was authorized for the armed forces that will cost \$20 million for a portion of the year 1970, and \$39 million for the year 1971. The increases range from \$28 per month to \$78 per month according to rank. Furthermore, the increases were retroactive to Oct. 1, 1970.

How do those increases compare with 42 cents per month or even \$17.17 per month, for old age pensioners? And what is even more frustrating, the increases for the old age pensioners become effective on Jan. 1 and April 1, 1971, respectively. As a matter of fact the old age pensioners will not receive the increases in their pensions until approximately the 28th of those months.

It is only a few months ago that the post office employees received an increase in salaries of 8 per cent per annum, retroactive to 1969. This will cost the government over \$20 million for each year of the contract, a total of over \$60 million.

And then, of course, there is the recently recommended increase in the salaries of our elected representatives. One thought only strikes us in this regard. If one man is worth only \$960 per year to his country, how can another man be worth \$70,000 per year to that same country? Need we say more?

James G. Turner is an Ottawa old age pensioner who has turned to writing as a "second career." Want to express your feelings? Citizen Forum welcomes the views of readers on any subject. Submissions should be typewritten and limited to a maximum of 800 words. Send entries to Citizen Forum, The Ottawa Citizen, 136 Sparks Street, Ottawa 4.